

cussed in detail is the vexatious, perennial dispute inherent in an organism that attempts to be on one hand a library for Congress, and, on the other, a library for everyone. Although this section of the book is of great interest, one question with raised eyebrows the assertion that "for years, librarians have been urging that the Library of Congress be put into the Department of Education," an entity that has only been in existence since 1980 (90 *Stat.* 668). Part three also notes LC's initial reluctance to accept the computer (followed by its subsequent embrace), the difficulties of locating materials at the Library, and Boorstin's impact upon the institution he directs. The last part is a brief comment on the future of LC as it begins to harness the technological wonders of videodiscs and digital storage in the service of enhanced control and access.

Throughout the narrative run basic philosophical issues. Does LC really help Congress govern? Is the Library doing a proper job of preserving the nation's his-

tory? Are the manifold information needs of users really being met? While the conclusion is affirmative, it is tempered with the caveat that future managers of this vast enterprise must be ever alert to the processes and technologies by which its disparate clientele will be served wisely and well.

This informative monograph contains a six-page bibliography. No index was available for evaluation, presumably because the above review is based on a "not for sale" advance copy made from uncorrected proofs. With the assumed inclusion of an index, the book when published will be a valuable addition to our professional literature and may well enjoy a wider audience.—Joe Morehead, *School of Library/Information Science, State University of New York at Albany.*

Neustadt, Richard M. *The Birth of Electronic Publishing: Legal and Economic Issues in Telephone, Cable and Over-the-Air Teletext and Videotext.* White Plains, N.Y.: Knowledge Industry, 1982. 143p. \$32.95. LC 82-6614. ISBN 0-86729-030-7.

Ever since "the paperless society" became buzzwords in our language, there have been many discussions debating the pros and cons of electronic publishing. The discussions this reviewer has heard have typically been subjective and sometimes emotional. The issues raised have related to the emergence of a new mass medium, described eloquently by the author:

Until recently, mass distribution of information has been dominated by publishing and broadcasting. Now, technology is marrying these media to spawn a new one: electronic publishing. Print-type information—text and graphics—is being distributed over electronic channels: television, radio, cable TV and telephone wires.

Electronic publishing . . . has no place in the law at present. No statute or regulation mentions it, and the first court decision on this medium was issued in the fall of 1981. In the next few years, policy-makers must answer a string of questions to fill this vacuum. How will the First Amendment apply—will electronic publishers have the full freedom of newspapers or will they be covered by content regulations, as are broadcasters? Will would-be electronic pub-

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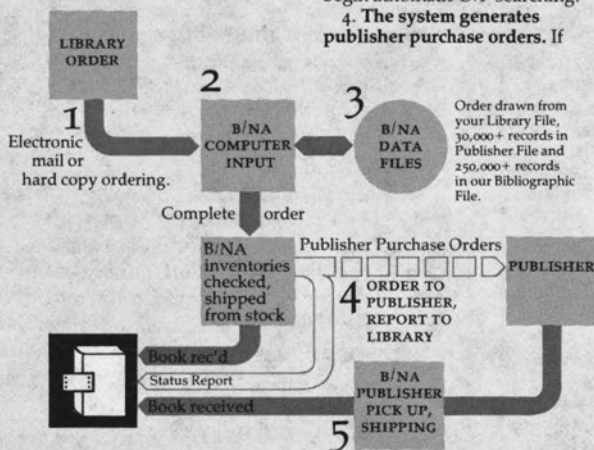


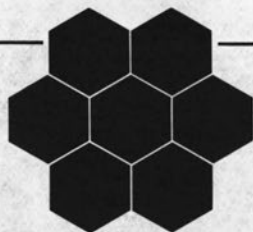
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lishers have access to the electronic channels of communication—is regulation needed to ensure diversity and competition? Should the government set technical standards to make systems compatible or should it leave that issue to the marketplace? Are privacy policies needed to protect consumers from misuse of the vast data banks the new technologies will create? Does current copyright law adequately protect the investments of those who create the information?

The book is written for the stakeholders in this new mass medium—newspapers, phone companies, cable companies, and book publishers—as well as for those who must devise new laws, enforce the laws, and test the laws for the lay public whose interests must be protected.

The content deals primarily with communications policy—current and proposed—and includes discussions of technical standards, privacy, defamation and obscenity, and economic rights. A brief but useful chapter, "How Electronic Publishing Works," sets the stage for delving into the text.

Librarians should read this book—if for no other reason than to understand that growth of the new medium cannot be resisted, and that the time is *now* for serious consideration of how the library will assimilate this new technology. The book is well written and interesting to read.—*Allen Kent, University of Pittsburgh.*

Spigai, Fran and Sommer, Peter. *Guide to Electronic Publishing: Opportunities in Online and Viewdata Services.* White Plains, N.Y.: Knowledge Industry, 1982. 100p. \$95. LC 81-20787. ISBN 0-914236-87-3.

Some publishers would call this book a "special report" because it provides concise information aimed at specialized audiences. The specialized audiences appear to consist of: (1) venture capitalists and (2) print publishers. The first audience would be interested in assessing new business opportunities, the second in deciding when, if ever, to adopt new technology.

The book addresses two technologies, one relating to online services and the other to viewdata services. The technologies of these electronic publishing examples are presented in a jargon-free man-